



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
124 HALSEY STREET, 6TH FLOOR, NEWARK NJ

DONALD T. DiFRANCESCO
Acting Governor

JOHN J. FARMER, JR.
Attorney General
MARK S. HERR
Director

March 7, 2001

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 45014
Newark, NJ 07101

(973) 504-6455

By Certified and Regular Mail

Lauren Hansford, P.T.A.
152 Elwood Avenue
Newark, New Jersey 07104-3106

**Re: Engaging in unlicensed practice with an expired license
Modified Offer of Settlement In Lieu of Filing a Formal Disciplinary Complaint**

Dear Ms. Hansford:

This is to advise you that the New Jersey State Board of Physical Therapy at its February 27, 2001 meeting reviewed your letter dated January 22, 2001, wherein you requested a reduction in the \$2500 penalty imposed for practicing without a renewed license. After considering your arguments, the Board has determined to reduce the penalty from \$2500 to \$1000 and waive the balance of \$1500. You are also advised that the you may pay the penalty in installment payments of \$100 over a 10 month period. The first payment should be sent to the Board, within 15 days of your receipt of this letter, to the attention of Susan Gartland, Executive Director, at the address listed herein. Below is the modified offer of settlement for your consideration.

The New Jersey State Board of Physical Therapy (the "Board") has had an opportunity to review information concerning your continuing to practice as a physical therapist assistant without having an active license. Specifically, the information reviewed included:

1. State of New Jersey Biennial Renewal application mailed to licensees in November 1999.
2. A letter from the Board dated August 1, 2000 confirming that you failed to renew your license by January 31, 2000.
3. A notarized letter dated August 2, 2000 from Harold Hall, Executive Director of the Passaic County Elks Cerebral Palsy Treatment Center ("Center") advising that you were employed as a physical therapy assistant from February 1, 2000 thru July 31, 2000 with the Center.

4. A letter from you dated August 2, 2000 providing an explanation as to why you did not submit a renewal application until seven months after the expiration date on your license.

Upon review of all available information, the Board has preliminarily found that probable cause exists to support a finding that you violated N.J.S.A. 45:1-7.1(c) and 45:1-21(h) in that you failed to renew your physical therapy assistant license by January 31, 2000 and continued to practice without an expired license. Practicing with an expired license is deemed to be engaging in unlicensed practice of a physical therapy assistant pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-7(c). You have advised the Board that as a 1995 graduate you were unfamiliar with the renewal procedures. Please be advised that as a licensee you are required to familiarize and adhere to the statutes and regulations of the Board. Enclosed find a copy of the current statutes and regulations that apply to the practice of physical therapy and physical therapy assistants.

Additionally you explained that the language in the renewal application which required you to advise the Board of a change in your official address confused you because it states "Do not return with renewal if your data is unchanged" and resulted in your failing to return the biennial renewal application to the Board. Please be advised that this wording requires the licensee to complete the change of address form which is located on the back of the biennial renewal application and return it in addition to the return of the license renewal application.

At this juncture, the Board has preliminarily concluded that the above violations are sufficient to warrant the initiation of formal disciplinary proceedings against you. Notwithstanding that decision, however, the Board has determined that it will first offer you an opportunity to settle this matter, and thereby avoid the initiation of formal disciplinary proceedings, should you consent to:

1. cease and desist from continuing to practice as a physical therapy assistant without timely renewal of future biennial licenses. The Board records indicate that you paid the reinstatement fee and your license was renewed on August 3, 2000.
3. the issuance of a formal reprimand;
4. pay a penalty in the amount of \$2500. **This amount is reduced to \$1000 and the remainder of the balance is waived.** (to be paid immediately or in installment payments as set forth herein upon your signing of the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter);

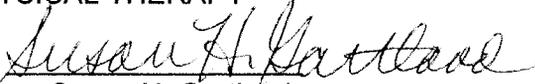
If you are willing to settle this matter on the offered settlement terms, you may do so by signing the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter, and returning it to the Board office. Upon your signature, this letter will be a matter of public record.

In the event you are unwilling to settle this matter on the offered terms, it will be referred to the Attorney General's office for the initiation of appropriate enforcement action. In such event, you will be afforded an opportunity to defend against the alleged violations. If an evidentiary hearing is deemed warranted, the Board will either conduct that hearing at a date and time to be scheduled or refer the matter to the Office of Administrative Law. You are advised, however, that in the event formal charges are filed, the Board may assess civil penalties in an amount greater than those herein offered in settlement should any charges against you be sustained.

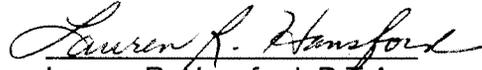
Additionally, the Board may, if the facts are found to so warrant, enter an order requiring you to pay the additional costs incurred by the Board. Should you have any questions concerning this letter or the settlement offer herein, I suggest that you contact Deputy Attorney General Carmen A. Rodriguez, who may be reached at (973) 693-5056.

If you elect to settle this matter now you should sign the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter and return it to the Board within fifteen (15) days following your receipt of this letter. In the event that the Board receives no response from you within fifteen (15) days, the Board's settlement offer will be withdrawn, and the matter will be referred to the Attorney General's Office for the initiation of appropriate enforcement proceedings.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD
PHYSICAL THERAPY

By: 
Susan H. Gartland
Executive Director

ACKNOWLEDGMENT: I, Lauren R. Hansford, hereby acknowledge that I have read and reviewed the settlement proposal set forth in the above letter. I acknowledge the conduct which has been charged. I am aware that, by signing this acknowledgment, I am waiving any rights I may have to defend myself against any charges of wrongdoing at an administrative hearing. I am also aware that the action taken against me by the Board herein is a matter of public record, and that this letter is a public document. I hereby agree to pay a penalty in the amount of \$1000 (to be paid upon signing of this acknowledgment), and to comply with all other requirements set forth in the settlement letter.


Lauren R. Hansford, P.T.A. PTA

Dated:

cc: Carmen A. Rodriguez, Deputy Attorney General

RECEIVED 10/18/07